

mariners on it. Today, we have less than 80.

We need to rebuild our commercial shipbuilding opportunities. We need to be able to build ships in America for the export of oil and natural gas, a strategic national asset, because our military, while it may fly here and there, it depends upon shipments across the ocean.

□ 2015

I can tell you one thing: We cannot depend upon China, or someone other than our own ships, to deliver our military, wherever they may need to be.

We are going to introduce a bill in the coming weeks that we would call “Energizing the American Maritime Industry.” Thousands upon thousands of jobs in the shipyards of America; and, when those ships come online, thousands of jobs for American mariners and American security.

A better deal for America includes a lot of different elements: Better education system, better wages, better infrastructure, better research, and better family opportunities across this Nation.

I draw the attention of my colleagues—on both the Democratic and Republican side—to where my Republican colleagues had taken the previous hour. They wanted to talk about the tax cut.

Well, I am going to end up with this, some real news headlines a couple of weeks ago: “Republican Tax Cuts to Fuel Historic U.S. Deficits: CBO”—the Congressional Budget Office—as reported April 9, 2018, by Reuters; “Deficit to Top \$1 Trillion Per Year by 2020, CBO Says”—the Congressional Budget Office—reported in The Washington Post on April 9, 2018; “CBO: GOP Policies Add Nearly \$1.6 Trillion to Deficit,” reported by Axios; and “wider than previously expected deficits and a mostly temporary spurt in economic growth,” reported by the Wall Street Journal.

If you are looking for a better deal for America, take a look at what our Democrats are proposing. It is a good program. It covers all of the elements that are necessary to see this country remain the wealthiest, remain the strongest, the most vibrant, the most entrepreneurial, and the most opportunity for every American, no matter where they may start in their life. We want all of them to end up with a better life, and we intend to put before them a better deal.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5698, PROTECT AND SERVE ACT OF 2018; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 2372, VETERANS CEMETERY BENEFIT CORRECTION ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2, AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION ACT OF 2018

Mr. NEWHOUSE, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 115-677) on the resolution (H. Res. 891) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5698) to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (S. 2372) to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide outer burial receptacles for remains buried in National Parks, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2) to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### AMERICAN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx) for 30 minutes.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we are here tonight to talk about a topic that is forefront on the minds of Americans of all ages. It is a topic at dinner tables across the country, and is finally becoming a leading national news story. We are here to talk about workforce development.

The American workforce has undergone a radical transformation in recent years. Right now, there are 6.6 million unfilled jobs in this country in a phenomenon known as the skills gap. Those jobs are unfilled because too many Americans are unskilled, despite the fact that we have record-high numbers of people attending postsecondary education.

At the Education and the Workforce Committee, workforce development is at the heart of what we do. All education is career education, and that means all education is workforce development.

Education, as most of us know, and many of us have experienced, is the

sure path out of poverty for millions of Americans. For all of us, it should give us the tools we need to cultivate the talents God has given us. Whether through a baccalaureate degree, a professional certificate, or any of the new and innovative stackable credentials, Americans look to the educational system for options.

Mr. Speaker, I am joined here tonight by some of my colleagues from the Education and the Workforce Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, as Ms. Foxx has said, we, right now, have the lowest unemployment in years. I think we are doing all we can to improve America's climate. Our taxes are lower. Our regulatory agencies, I think, are the most pro-freedom, pro-business we have had in years.

But the biggest problem that I find again and again, as I go around my district—and I should point out that Wisconsin's Sixth Congressional District has more manufacturing jobs in it than any other district in the country—is that we can't find enough people to work. A little bit of that problem is due to the government competing with the private sector and providing people compensation for not working at all. But a lot of the problem is that our educational system has let America down in that they have turned their back on skills-based training.

I think the number one thing holding back America's industry manufacturing sector right now is a lack of people with skills to do the job, not only manufacturing, but construction, as well. Again and again, we have a shortage of welders, we have a shortage of CNC operators, in construction, shortages all across the board.

If you look at the people who are still working frequently into their fifties and sixties, what is the reason? The reason is this myth out there, perpetrated in part by the mainstream media, but, in part, by the educational establishment, that you should get a vague 4-year degree—a degree in communication arts, a degree in psychology, something like that—which, too often, is leading to a low-paid job and a high-paid college debt.

If, instead, you would go to, let's say, a trade school—as I do in my district—you can have people who become apprentices and make money as they are earning. They can wind up making \$70,000, or \$80,000, or \$90,000 before they are 25 years old, when some of their classmates are still ringing up the debt in the traditional college.

The Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee, as we work through our bills, again and again is looking to fill this gap. We can no longer do this disservice to so many young people, encouraging them down an expensive path that does not lead to a well-paid job.

The future of America depends on its construction and its manufacturing.